

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

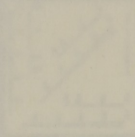
# catalog of an exhibit

June 17-30, 1965

JOHN SHAW BILLINGS CENTENNIAL

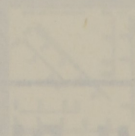
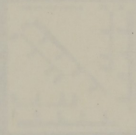


NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE



Catalog of all exhibits

March 17-30, 1965



JOHN SHAW BILLINGS CENTER



This exhibit is presented in connection with the John Shaw Billings Centennial, June 17, 1965, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Dr. Billings' appointment as head of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office, U. S. Army.

The Library takes pleasure in acknowledging its indebtedness to the New York Public Library for its generous assistance, which made possible the preparation of this exhibit. For other gifts, loans, or courtesies, the Library wishes to thank John Shaw Billings, II, Dr. Jean A. Curran, Colonel Robert Fletcher, and Dr. C. J. Maloney; the Carnegie Institution of Washington, International Business Machines Corporation, Library of Congress, Medical Museum of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, National Archives, and Smithsonian Institution.





## CASE I

### Education

Born in Indiana in 1838, Billings was graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, in 1857. He earned his M.D. degree in 1860 from the Medical College of Ohio in Cincinnati.

1. Miami University. Oxford, Ohio.  
Diploma, Bachelor of Arts degree, 1857, awarded to JSB.
2. Medical College of Ohio. Cincinnati.  
Diploma, M. D. degree, 1860, awarded to JSB.

Nos. 1-2: Gift of John Shaw Billings, II

### Civil War Service

Although offered an assistantship to a leading surgeon in Cincinnati, Billings declined when the Civil War broke out. After an examination in which he took top honors, he was commissioned an assistant surgeon in the regular army in April 1862. Dr. Billings won a high reputation in the field as a very skillful and original operative surgeon of great courage and resourcefulness. After the disastrous battle of Chancellorsville, he conducted the retreat of the wounded; at Gettysburg in July 1863, he and his assistant surgeons cared for and fed between 700 and 800 wounded. Billings performed various operations, sometimes working all day and all night.

3. Billings, John Shaw.  
Adventures of a medical man in the Army; profusely illustrated with illustrations of some things which he saw and many others which he did not see [ca. 1865].  
Ms.  
Quizzical account of JSB's experiences in the Army.
4. Billings, John Shaw. Cincinnati, Ohio, October 8, 1861.  
Letter to Simon Cameron [photocopy]  
Application for an invitation to serve as assistant surgeon in the regular Army.
5. Fenley, C. A., Surgeon General.  
Contract with JSB, Washington, D. C., November 13, 1861.  
Ms.  
Agreement to serve as contract surgeon.





6-9, 11-15.

Billings, John Shaw. April 7, 1863 - April 15, 1864.

Letters to his wife.

Describe camp life and activities, and surgery after Gettysburg.

10. Billings, John Shaw.

Photograph as young army officer.

16. Billings, John Shaw.

Photograph in Civil War uniform.

17. Billings, Kate (Stevens).

Photograph as a young woman.

JSB's wife.

18. U.S. Sanitary Commission.

Photograph of field team at the General Hospital, Gettysburg.

19. U.S. Army.

Field surgeon's kit, Civil War.

Nos. 3, 5-9, 11-15: Lent by New York  
Public Library

No. 4: Courtesy of National Archives

No. 17: Courtesy of Dr. Jean A. Curran

No. 19: Lent by Smithsonian Institution

## CASE II

### U.S. Marine Hospital Service

Late in the 1860's, the Secretary of the Treasury called on Billings to inspect and recommend an over-all organization for the scattered, federally financed Marine Hospitals. Started by President John Adams in 1798 to care for merchant seamen, these hospitals had been taken over by the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War. Billings visited them all and recommended military organization, a merit system, and construction changes. The plan was to rehabilitate the hospitals and put them for the first time under a Supervising Surgeon General.

Billings, whose ideas were incorporated into the law which established the Marine Hospital Service in 1870, soon found himself in competition with Dr. John M. Woodworth for the job of Surgeon General. However, Congress ruled that the Service must be headed by a civilian. Having won the appointment, Dr. Woodworth proceeded to organize a national quarantine system and a publication for reporting epidemics from abroad. From these roots today's Public Health Service grew.







20. Boutwell, George S., Secretary of the Treasury. February 26, 1870.  
Letter to JSB.  
Orders JSB to inspect marine hospitals throughout the South.
21. U.S. Marine Hospital. San Francisco.  
Oil painting, 19th century.  
Shows hospital, surrounding buildings, and wharf.
22. U.S. Marine Hospital. Cairo, Ill.  
Photograph.
23. U.S. Marine Hospital. Chelsea, Mass.  
Watercolor, by Ann Little, 1830.
24. U.S. Marine Hospital Service.  
Quarantine flag.  
Yellow flag with blue insignia. Flown at quarantine stations and on quarantine vessels.

No. 20: Lent by New York Public Library

No. 24: Lent by National Institutes of Health

#### U.S. National Board of Health

On March 3, 1879, under the stimulus of a yellow fever epidemic, and with the active cooperation of the American Public Health Association, Billings got Congress to set up a National Board of Health. For three years he ran the Board in a precedent-setting way. He initiated a program of grants-in-aid to states, counties, and cities, mainly to fight yellow fever. He instituted grants to colleges in support of research on food adulteration, air and water pollution, and sanitary engineering. The Board made sanitary surveys of port cities. It sent to Havana a Yellow Fever Commission whose studies helped start the research chain that led to the mosquito as vector. The Board took the Marine Hospital Service's quarantine and foreign disease reporting posers. But following Dr. Woodworth's death, the second Surgeon General, Dr. John M. Hamilton, obtained the Board's appropriation for fighting disease. Shortly thereafter, Billings resigned from the National Board of Health, which soon died from lack of Congressional support.

25. The Mascot. New Orleans, August 5, 1882.  
Cover cartoon depicting members of the National Board of Health slinging mud at a woman, symbolizing the city of New Orleans.
26. Billings, John Shaw, comp.  
Scrapbook, 1882.  
Contains newspaper clippings of stories about the National Board of Health.

Nos. 25-26: Lent by New York Public Library







CASE III

Surgeon General's Office Library

In December, 1864, Billings was ordered to the Surgeon General's Office, and in 1865 he acquired unofficial custody of the library. There he carried out his greatest achievement: creation of a national medical library. By using a fund of about \$85,000 turned in from savings by the hospitals after the war, and by energetic solicitation of gifts and exchanges, Billings enlarged the library from 2,253 volumes in 1865 to 116,847 bound volumes and 191,598 pamphlets in 1895, when he retired. He made the riches of this collection available in one comprehensive, author-subject Index-Catalogue of both monographic and periodical literature, and created the Index Medicus as a monthly classified index to current periodical literature.

27. U.S. Army. Surgeon General's Office. Staff.  
Group photograph, in uniform.  
JSB is seated second from right.

Acquisitions

28. U.S. Army. Surgeon General's Office. Library.  
Record of medical journals received. Vol. 2. 1869.  
Accession book with handwritten entries of serials received.
29. U.S. Army. Surgeon General's Office. Library.  
List of medical journals ... wanted ... [Washington, 1875]  
3 pts.  
Compiled by JSB for his acquisition program.
30. Billings, John Shaw. May 11, 1875.  
Draft letter to Dr. W. O. Baldwin, Montgomery, Ala.  
Forwards want list (no. 29), and solicits books for the "National Medical Library."
31. U.S. War Department. Adjutant General's Office.  
Special orders no. 116. Washington, May 17, 1890. Extract.  
1 l.  
Orders to JSB for European travel.
32. Moore, John, Surgeon General, U.S. Army. Washington, May 27, 1890.  
Letter to JSB.  
Outlines JSB's duties in Europe--to acquire materials for the library and museum, and to gather information on census techniques.
33. White Star Line  
Passenger list, breakfast menu, and seating card of JSB on R.M.S. Majestic, August, 1890.







34. Barrett (B.) Brothers. London.  
Bill of sale, June 28, 1890.  
To JSB, for "Large Hold All"
35. Billings, John Shaw.  
Photograph, taken in Great Britain.
36. White Star Line.  
Passenger list on R.M.S. Britannic, June 4, 1890.  
Includes JSB.

Nos. 31-36: Lent by New York Public Library

Catalogs

37. U.S. Army. Surgeon General's Office. Library.  
Catalogue of the Surgeon General's Office Library. [Washington]  
October 23, 1865.  
31 l.  
Lists under 11 different subjects some 2,000 volumes, showing the  
size of the collection when JSB assumed custody.
38. U.S. Army. Surgeon General's Office. Library.  
Specimen fasciculus of a catalogue of the National Medical Library,  
under the direction of the Surgeon-General, United States Army, at  
Washington, D. C. Washington, U.S. Govt. Print. Off., 1876.  
72 p.
39. U.S. Army. Surgeon General's Office. Library.  
Index-catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office,  
United States Army. Vol. 1. A-Berlinski. Washington, U.S. Govt.  
Print. Off., 1880.  
888 p.

Library and Museum Building

Billings supervised the planning and construction of a building completed  
in 1887 to house the library and medical museum.

40. Billings, John Shaw.  
[Memoranda.]  
Ms. 4 l.  
Notes on planning and building requirements for the medical library  
and museum.
41. Billings, John Shaw.  
Photograph in middle years, taken in Philadelphia.





42. U.S. President (Chester A. Arthur)  
Message from the President ... for the erection of a suitable fire-proof building to contain the records, library, and museum of the Medical Department of the Army. December 17, 1883.  
12 p. (U.S. 48th Cong. 1st Sess. Senate. Exec. doc. no. 12)
43. U.S. 48th Cong. 2d Sess. House of Representatives.  
H. R. 48 ... An act providing for the erection of a building to contain the records, library and museum of the Medical Department, United States Army. Feb. 17, 1885.  
4 p.
44. U.S. Army. Surgeon General's Office. Medical Library and Museum.  
Engraving, 1885.

Nos. 40-43: Lent by New York Public Library

Army Medical Museum

Created during the Civil War, the Army Medical Museum was also placed under Billings' charge during most of the years he was creating the library.

45. Drum microscope.  
Made by Dolland, circa 1860.
46. Compound microscope.  
Made by Smith and Beck of London, circa 1867.
47. Billings, John Shaw.  
Description of selected specimens from the Army Medical Museum, Washington, D. C. Chicago, 1892.  
14 p.  
Describes material in the Army Medical Department exhibit at the Columbian Exposition.
48. Microtome.  
Made by Bichoff, N. Y., before 1870.
49. Walton's guarded curette.  
Made by Wiess of London.
50. Compound microscope.  
Made by Jos. Zentmayer of Philadelphia, circa 1862.

Nos. 45-50: Lent by Armed Forces Institute  
of Pathology, Medical Museum





CASE IV

The Johns Hopkins Hospital

From the time of his celebrated report on the barracks and hospitals of the U.S. Army (1870), Billings had been especially interested in hospital construction. In 1875, his plans for the Johns Hopkins Hospital were selected by the trustees from five proposals that had been submitted. In contrast to existing American practices, Billings specified that the administration should be under a single head, based on a military plan; that clinical instruction, with the exception of surgery, should be given in the wards and out-patient department rather than in a clinical amphitheater; that there should be graded accommodations for patients of different means; that a system of financial, historical, and clinical records should be maintained, and that reports on original scientific work should be published annually. Billings was highly influential in guiding the institution to a position of leadership in the reform of American medical education. The hospital opened May 7, 1889, and was soon recognized as the finest of its kind.

51. The Johns Hopkins Hospital. Baltimore.  
Photograph of Broadway front.
52. The Sun. Baltimore, May 3, 1889.  
Johns Hopkins Hospital opening.  
Clippings.
53. The Johns Hopkins Hospital. Baltimore.  
Opening of The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Tuesday,  
May 7th, 1889. Programme.  
JSB, medical adviser of the trustees, delivered one of the  
addresses.
54. The Johns Hopkins University. Baltimore.  
Opening of Levering Hall, Thursday, January 16, 1890.  
JSB's invitation, and Ladies' ticket.
55. King, Francis T., President, The Johns Hopkins Hospital. Baltimore,  
July 22, 1876.  
Letter to JSB [copy]  
Invites JSB to render "medical advisory assistance" in the planning  
and construction of the Johns Hopkins Hospital.
56. Billings, John Shaw.  
... Description of the Johns Hopkins Hospital ... Baltimore, 1890.  
116 p. illus., plans, plates.  
At head of title: Publications of the Johns Hopkins Hospital.  
A classic in the field of hospital construction, engineering,  
sanitation, ventilation, and administration.







57. Billings, John Shaw.  
Principles of organization of a medical department recommended for the Johns Hopkins University.  
Ms. 3 l.
58. Billings, John Shaw.  
Hospital construction and organization.  
(In Hospital plans. Five essays relating to the construction, organization and management of hospitals, contributed by their authors for the use of The Johns Hopkins Hospital of Baltimore. New York, William Wood & Co., 1875. p. 1-46)
59. Billings, John Shaw.  
(Photograph, in middle years.)

Nos. 52-55, 57: Lent by New York Public  
Library

#### CASE V

#### Vital Statistics

Billings, who delighted in statistics as such, had a leading role in the development of vital statistics in connection with the U.S. Census from 1880 to 1910.

60. Collection of letters from state and city boards of health to JSB referring to his request for mortality statistics for the census of 1890. Includes letters from:  
Ford, William H., President, Board of Health. Philadelphia, January 17, 1890  
Griffin, John, Commissioner of Health. Brooklyn, New York, January 2, 1890.  
Kilvington, S. S., Commissioner of Health. Minneapolis, November 8, 18--.  
Kohlhasse, A. New Orleans, La., May 14, 1890 (telegram). Louisiana. Board of Health. New Orleans, December 21, 1889.  
Sinks, N., Clerk. Department of Health. St. Paul, Minn., February 20, 1890.  
Tomlinson, William, Registrar of Vital Statistics. Department of Health, Chicago, January 17, 1890.  
Tracy, Roger S., Register. Health Department, Division of Vital Statistics, New York, January 15, 1890.
61. Porter, Robert P., Superintendent of the Census. Department of the Interior, Census Office, Washington, D. C., May 3, 1889.  
Letter to Secretary of the Interior, with endorsements [photocopy]  
Seeks approval for the selection of JSB "to superintend the collection and compilation of the mortality and vital statistics of the Eleventh Census."







62. Noble, John W., Secretary of the Interior. Washington, May 8, 1889.  
Letter to the Secretary of War [photocopy]  
Concerns JSB's appointment "to superintend the collection and compilation of the Mortality and Vital Statistics of the Eleventh Census."
63. Proctor, Redfield, Secretary of War. [Washington], May 16, 1889.  
Letter to Secretary of the Interior [photocopy].  
Approves appointment.
64. U.S. Census Office.  
Report on vital and social statistics in the United States at the eleventh census: 1890. Part 1. Washington, U.S. Govt. Print. Off., 1896.  
1059 p.  
Prepared by JSB.
65. Billings, John Shaw.  
Letter book, 1889-1895.  
Contains copies of outgoing correspondence written by JSB as special agent for census of 1890.

No. 60: Lent by New York Public Library  
Nos. 61-63: Courtesy of National Archives

#### Hollerith Tabulating Equipment

Billings is also credited with being the progenitor of the modern tabulating machine. His suggestion that the various statistical data of the living and the decedent "might be recorded on a single card or slip by punching small holes in it, and that these cards might then be assorted and counted by mechanical means according to any selected group of these perforations" was taken up and applied by Mr. Herman Hollerith, who invented the tabulating equipment used by the Census. The inventor gave Billings credit for the idea and offered him a share in his Tabulating Machine Company, which eventually grew into the International Business Machines Corporation.

66. Hollerith early tabulation equipment, including tabulating machine, key punch, and sorting box.  
Through the medium of punched cards and these machines, the U.S. Census of 1890 was counted--the first population count of a great nation made by other than manual means.
67. Scientific American. August 30, 1890.  
Coverpage illustrating the "Electrical Enumerating Machine" in use at the Census [photocopy].







68. Hollerith, Herman.

Photograph.

Inventor of the "Electrical Enumerating Mechanism".

Nos. 66, 68: Lent by International Business  
Machines Corporation

No. 67: Courtesy of Library of Congress

### Building Plans

In addition to the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Billings participated in planning the Barnes Hospital of Soldiers' Home, Washington, D.C. (1873), the Laboratory of Hygiene (1892) and the William Pepper Laboratory of Clinical Medicine (1895) in Philadelphia, the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston (1913), the City Hospital at Memphis (1897), the Army Medical Museum and Library (1887), and the New York Public Library (1911).

69. Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. Boston, Mass.

Proposed plan. Scheme K.

Architectural drawing, scale 1 inch = 32 ft.

70. Johnson, L. H. H.

Conditions of competition for the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital,  
Boston, Mass. [1908]

12 p.

JSB is named as medical adviser.

71. Cochrane, Alexander. Boston, Mass., November 10, 1906.

Letter to JSB.

Discusses plans for Peter Bent Brigham Hospital.

72. Cochrane, Alexander. Boston, Mass., March 14, 1907.

Letter to JSB.

Discusses plans for Peter Bent Brigham Hospital.

73. U.S. Army. Surgeon General's Office. Library.

Photograph, 1894.

Shows "Library Hall": the reading room and stacks.

Nos. 69-72: Lent by New York Public Library

### J. S. Billings vs. the United States

Billings had his problems with red tape. Although under orders to tour Europe on behalf of the Office of the Surgeon General in 1881 and 1884, the Treasury Department did not recognize the trips as official, and Billings had to repay his expense allowance.





74. U.S. Court of Claims.

John S. Billings vs. the United States [Miscellaneous papers] 1887.  
Although the Court of Claims ruled in Billings' favor, it was declared to have no jurisdiction in the case.

75. Billings, John Shaw. March 15, 1888.

Draft letter to the Secretary of War.

Requests payment for the legal services of J. K. McCammon in the Court of Claims case.

Nos. 74-75: Lent by New York Public Library

CASE VI

Honors and Awards

From the mid 1860's until his death in 1913, Dr. John Shaw Billings was outstanding in American medicine and public affairs. He achieved an international reputation as physician, librarian, bibliographer, statistician, educator, hospital planner, and sanitarian. His accomplishments won him honorary degrees from Edinburgh, Oxford, Munich, Budapest, Dublin, and Harvard, and membership in many learned societies. In 1895, 259 physicians from Great Britain and America sponsored a testimonial dinner at which Dr. Billings was presented with a silver box containing a check for \$10,000. That box and his portrait are now in the National Library of Medicine.

76. Lovejoy, B. G., Secretary, Board of Directors, Garfield Memorial Hospital. December 13, 1882.

Letter to JSB.

Notifies JSB that he is elected to the Board of Directors.

77. Yale University.

Engraved invitation, signed by Arthur Twining Hadley, inviting JSB to New Haven, Conn., on Wednesday, October 23, 1901, to receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

78. Inman & International Steamship Company.

List of saloon passengers per United States and Royal Mail Steamer, "City of Paris," from New York to Liverpool, Wednesday, June 12th, 1889.

Includes Surgeon J. S. Billings, U.S.A.

79. New York Herald [Paris ed.] June 25, 1889.

Honor well won. Dr. J. S. Billings, U.S.A. receives a degree from the University of Oxford.

Clipping.





80. International Medical Congress. Philadelphia, September 4-9, 1876.  
Membership card.  
Issued to JSB.
81. Billings, John Shaw.  
Photograph of the portrait painted by Cecilia Beaux in 1895.  
JSB wears the gown of a Doctor of Civil Law of Oxford. The original hangs in the Reading Room of the National Library of Medicine.
82. The British Medical Journal. July 6, 1889.  
An international courtesy.  
Clipping.  
Editorial about JSB and the Oxford degree.
83. Silver box.  
Inscribed: "From the physicians of the United States and Great Britain to John S. Billings in grateful recognition of his services to medical scholars. 1895."  
Presented to JSB at a testimonial dinner given by 259 physicians. The box enclosed a check for \$10,000.
84. Billings, John Shaw.  
Photograph in academic gown.
85. Medical Society of the State of New York.  
Certificate of honorary membership.  
Issued to JSB, February 5, 1880.
86. Athens Medical Society.  
Certificate of honorary membership.  
Issued to JSB, November 5, 1890.
87. Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.  
Announcement of a meeting of the Fellows to be held on July 7, 1892, "to witness the conferring of the Honorary Fellowship upon ... John Shaw Billings."
88. Dublin University.  
Invitation to JSB to attend the 300th anniversary celebration of the University on July 8, 1892.

Nos. 76-80, 82, 86-88: Lent by New York  
Public Library

Nos. 83, 85: Gift of John Shaw Billings, II  
No. 84: Courtesy of Dr. Jean A. Curran





Diverse Accomplishments

The various materials displayed in this case indicate the diversity of the man's interests and accomplishments.

89. Billings, John Shaw.  
... Can the reports of the sick and the sanitary statements of the different armies be arranged according to a scheme essentially uniform for the purpose of gaining statistics of scientific worth for comparison of diseases, wounds and deaths in times of peace and war? ... Berlin, L. Schumacher, 1891.  
30 p. illus.  
Paper presented to X. internationaler medicinischer Congress.
90. Vest, Y. Y. United States Senate, Washington, D. C., March 26, 1892.  
Letter to JSB.  
Requests a conference with JSB regarding the ventilation of the Senate chamber.
91. The Engineering Record. October 3, 1891.  
Heating and ventilating the U.S. Senate Chamber, Washington, D. C.  
Clipping.
92. Billings, John Shaw.  
Diagrammatic sketch.  
Pertains to heating and ventilation of U.S. Senate Chamber, Washington, D. C.
93. Young, Casey, Chairman, Sub-Committee on Ventilation, House of Representatives. Washington, D. C., April 14, 1876.  
Letter to JSB.  
Requests JSB to be a member of the Board "to devise measures for the proper ventilation of the Hall of the House of Representatives."
94. Billings, John Shaw.  
Photograph in his library at 84 Gay Street, Georgetown.
95. Billings, John Shaw.  
Autobiographical fragment.  
Ms. 8 p.
96. Billings, John Shaw. On board U.S. Transport Ship Marcia C. Day, March 20, 1864.  
Letter to Captain E. L. Hartz.  
Report on the sanitary condition of ship and passengers.
97. Plastic surgery kit, circa 1864.





98. Baltimore News. June 30, 1903.  
Sanitation in two cities--Dr. John S. Billings on Washington and Baltimore.  
Clipping.
99. Sherman, John. Department of State, Washington, May 13, 1897.  
Letter to JSB.  
Refers to JSB's participation in the Congress of the International Statistical Institute to be held at St. Petersburg in the summer of 1897.
- Nos. 89-93, 98-99: Lent by New York Public Library
- No. 94: Courtesy of Dr. Jean A. Curran
- No. 95: Gift of John Shaw Billings, II
- No. 97: Lent by Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Medical Museum

## CASE VII

### University Lectures

During his Army career, Billings often lectured at American universities. He retired from the Army in 1895, to assume the full duties of Professor of Hygiene at the University of Pennsylvania.

100. Gilmore, J. C., Assistant Adjutant General, War Department.  
Washington, D. C., April 29, 1895.  
Letter to JSB.  
Informs him that his request for retirement has been approved.
101. U.S. War Department. Adjutant General's Office.  
Special orders no. 229. Washington, October 1, 1895. Extract.  
1 l.  
JSB's retirement orders.
102. Merriam (G. & C.) Co. Springfield, Mass., December 21, 1900.  
Letter to JSB.  
Informs him that a copy of Webster's International Dictionary, in the preparation of which he assisted, has been sent to him.
103. Billings, John Shaw.  
Photograph, middle years.





104. Columbia College, New York. School of Mines.  
Sanitary engineering; a course of study recently established.  
New York, 1885.  
15 p.  
Includes notice of JSB's course on "principles of hygiene."
105. Billings, John Shaw.  
Lectures at School of Mines, Columbia College. Spring Term,  
1888.  
Ms. 22 p.  
Notes for lectures on hygiene and sanitation.
106. Billings, John Shaw.  
Cancer statistics.  
Typescript. 6 p.
107. Billings, John Shaw.  
Extract from lectures, University of Pennsylvania, 1896.  
Photocopy (original in New York Public Library)  
On development of punch cards.
108. Bowditch, H. P., Dean, Harvard University Medical School. Boston,  
Mass., June 8, 1886.  
Letter to JSB.  
Invitation to give a course of six lectures on the history of  
medicine.

Nos. 100-102, 106, 108: Lent by New York  
Public Library  
No. 103: Courtesy of Dr. Jean A. Curran  
No. 107: Courtesy of Dr. C. J. Maloney

New York Public Library

In 1895, the three great New York libraries, the Astor Library, the Lenox Library, and the Tilden Trust, were united to form the New York Public Library. Billings was appointed Superintendent-in-Chief. He resigned his professorship at the University of Pennsylvania on June 1, 1896; from then until his death he was in charge of the new library. Billings planned the building still standing at 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue, and organized the collections and administration of the library.

109. Lydenberg, H. M. Greensboro, N. C., January 23, 1955.  
Letter to Colonel Frank B. Rogers.  
Encloses photograph of JSB (no. 110).
110. Billings, John Shaw.  
Photograph, 1911, seated at desk in Astor Library.





111. Billings, John Shaw.  
Progress of medicine in the nineteenth century. Washington,  
U.S. Govt. Print. Off., 1901.  
Reprinted from Smithsonian Report for 1900, p. 637-644.
112. New York Public Library.  
Invitation to laying of the cornerstone, November 10, 1902.  
Issued to Dr. and Mrs. John S. Billings.
113. New York Times. May 24, 1911.  
50,000 visitors see new public library.  
Clipping.
114. Billings, John Shaw  
Photograph, circa 1896.  
Autographed by JSB.

No. 111: Lent by Carnegie Institution of  
Washington

Nos. 112-113: Lent by New York Public  
Library

Carnegie Institution of Washington

Besides being one of the original incorporators of the Carnegie Institution of Washington in 1902, Billings served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for 10 years. His proposal for the consolidation of New York's many free circulating libraries with the New York Public Library led to the establishment of the famed Carnegie libraries, in whose planning he directly assisted Mr. Andrew Carnegie.

115. Index Medicus, a monthly classified record of the current medical literature of the world. 2d ser., vol. 11, no. 3, March, 1913.  
Fielding H. Garrison, ed. Washington, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1913.
116. Carnegie Institution of Washington.  
Report of the president for the year ending October 31, 1913.  
Washington, 1913.  
p. 5-35 (Extract from the yearbook)  
Contains eulogy of JSB, with ~~port~~ portrait.
117. Cortelyou, George B., Secretary to the President. White House, Washington, November 25, 1901.  
Letter to JSB.  
Invitation to JSB to lunch with the President, Mr. Carnegie, and Dr. Gilman.

Nos. 115-116: Lent by Carnegie Institution  
of Washington

No. 117: Lent by New York Public Library







CASE VIII

Obituaries, Biographies, and Associates

John Shaw Billings died on March 11, 1913, and was buried in Arlington Cemetery. His memorialists have included associates from the Surgeon General's Office Library, the University of Pennsylvania, and the New York Public Library.

118. New York Public Library.

Memorial meeting, April 25, 1913, in honor of the late Director John Shaw Billings, L.L.D., D.C.L., Lieut. Col., U.S.A. retired. Program.

119. New York Public Library.

Memorial meeting in honor of the late Dr. John Shaw Billings, April 25, 1913. New York, 1913  
27 p.

120. New York Tribune. April 26, 1913.

Laud Billings's career. More than 400 at memorial meeting in library.  
Clipping.

121. Presbyterian Hospital. New York. Board of Managers.

In memoriam, John S. Billings, M.D. New York, 1913.  
9 l.

In recognition of JSB's service as a member of the Board.

122. Fletcher, Robert.

Photograph, later years.

Scholar and physician, Fletcher was JSB's most valued assistant in preparing the Index-Catalogue and Index Medicus.

123. Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Honorary medal.

Awarded to Robert Fletcher, 1910.

124. Lydenberg, Harry M.

John Shaw Billings, creator of the National Medical Library and its catalogue, first director of the New York Public Library. Chicago, American Library Association, 1924.

94 p.





125. Mitchell, S. Weir.

Biographical memoir of John Shaw Billings, 1838-1913, with The scientific work of John Shaw Billings by Fielding H. Garrison. Washington, National Academy of Sciences, 1917.  
p. 375-416.

Reprint from National Academy of Sciences, Biographical memoirs, vol. 8. Includes portrait.

126. Garrison, Fielding H.  
Photograph, later years.

127. Garrison, Fielding H.  
John Shaw Billings, a memoir. New York, Putnam, 1915.  
432 p.

Nos. 118-120: Lent by New York Public  
Library

No. 121: Gift of John Shaw Billings, II

No. 123: Gift of Colonel Robert Fletcher

No. 125: Lent by Carnegie Institution of  
Washington

